

We claim:

1. A system of enriching non-linkable media representations for hotlinking in a network implementing a hot media architecture, comprising:
 - a server coupled to the network for transmitting a streaming rich media file to a client station;
 - a HotMedia client master in the client station;
 - means included in the master for fetching an action enabling kernel and a hotlink canvas from the server after receiving a meta frame from the server;
 - means for composing hotlinks in the hotlink canvas after receiving the meta data from the action enabling kernel; and
 - means for overlying and coupling the hotlink canvas in a transparent panel on the non-linkable media whereby the non-linkable media becomes interactive and hyperlinkable.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the streaming rich media further comprises:
 - non-linkable media in a framework of frames including a header frame, a thumbnail frame, a meta frame, a media frame and an end of stream frame.
3. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - means for delivering the meta frame to the action enabling kernel.
4. In a system of enriching non-linkable media representations for hotlinking in a network implementing a HotMedia architecture including a server coupled to the network for transmitting to a client station a streaming rich media file including non-linkable

media in a framework of frames including a header frame, a thumbnail frame, a meta frame, a media frame and an end of stream frame and a HotMedia client master in the client station, a method for providing a hotlink canvas to enrich non-linkable media representations, comprising the steps of:

composing hotlinks;

querying the state of a media object in the client station;

displaying range contours of the hotlinks; and

performing actions composed in the hotlinks to enrich the otherwise non-linkable media representations.

5. The method of claim 4 further including the step of composing hotlinks by receiving hotlink meta data from an action enabling kernel.

6. The method of claim 4 further including the step of querying media current spatio-temporal position information and the current state of the media object.

7. The method of claim 5 further including the step of forwarding media spatio-temporal position information and the current state of the media object to the action enabling kernel.

8. The method of claim 6 further including the step of receiving the information of contending hotlink candidates from the action enabling kernel.

9. The method of claim 4 further including of the step of picking one hotlink among a set of contending hotlink candidates.

10. The method of claim 4 further including the step of displaying the range contours of hotlinks on the media object by overlaying a transparent panel on top of the media object.

11. The method of claim 10 further including the step of a non-linear transformation and interpolation for unifying hotlinks between non-linear media representations in the

3 context of the hotlink canvas.

1 12. The method of claim 4 further including the step of performing specified actions if the
2 corresponding hotlink is triggered.

1 13. The method of claim 5 further including the step of requesting the action enabling kernel
2 to handle specified actions corresponding to a triggered hotlink.

1 14. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

2
3 means for providing hyperlinking capability in a real time environment for non-linkable
4 media representation in a network.

1 15. The system of claim 1 further comprising

2
3 a server coupled to the network capable of producing and transmitting real time media
4 presentations; and

5
6 a real time encoding studio resident in a server coupled to the network for transmitting
7 both real time non-linkable media and a set of meta information of hotlinks to a
8 HotMedia client station.

1 16. The system of claim 1 wherein a real time encoding studio provides a real-time authoring
2 capability of multiplexing a non-linkable media and a set of meta information of hotlinks
3 to a streaming rich media file in HotMedia framework

1 17. A hotlink canvas for enriching non-linkable media representations for hotlinking in a
2 network implementing a hot media architecture including a server coupled to a client
3 station via a network, comprising:

4
5 means for constructing a transparent panel overlying a media object including the
6 non-linkable representations in the client station;

7 means for composing hotlinks in the transparent panel; and
8

means for enabling hot linking of the non-linkable media using the hotlinks in the transparent panel.

18. The hotlink canvas of claim 17 wherein the transparent panel further comprises:

means for decoupling hotlinks in media representations at the client station.

19. The hotlink canvas of claim 17 wherein the client station further comprises:

means responsive to a trigger for implementing a hotlink the transparent panel.

20. The hotlink canvas of claim 17 wherein the server further comprises:

means for composing the hotlink canvas in advance of delivering the non-linkable media to the client station